(b) The following project will be completed in the current year :

Dimapur-Dibrugarh-Tinsukia-Lekhapani Gauge Conversion project.

Project for Computerisation of entire Freight Operation

252. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether eleven years ago the Indian Railways gave a green signal to an ambitious Rs. 1079 crores project for computerisation of its entire freight operation by 1991;

(b) if so, whether after spending more than 134 crores the operation remains today manually controlled;

(c) if so, whether in 1985, the Government had set up the centre for Railway information system which was to design develop and implement the freight operation information system;

(d) the main reasons for not setting up this centre for operation; and

(e) the total loss incurred due to non-implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Freight Operation Information System (FOIS) project for the Indian Railways was approved by the Planning Commission in November, 1989 at a cost of Rs. 1098 crore with the stipulation that it should be implemented in the first phase on the Northern Railway. The detailed estimate of the FOIS for the Northern Railway was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 267.2 crore in December, 1992 and the target date for its implementation was 31.12.95.

(b) So far a total expenditure about Rs. 162 crore has been incurred on the project. The project is yet to be completed and until that happens freight operations will have to be manually controlled.

(c) The Centre for Railway Information Centre (CRIS) was set up in 1986 mainly to design, develop and to implement the FOIS.

(d) The software developed so far by the CRIS has been on trial in Delhi area of the Northern Railway. Various problems and deficiencies were encountered in the software during the trials and were attempted to be resolved. Several of these have, however, been persisting. To identify the reasons for this and find solutions, a technical study of the project was entrusted to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi in October, 1995. The IIT report, which evaluates the relevance and utility of the software and recommends guidelines for making the system workable, beneficial and cost effective has been received and is under examination.

(e) While there is delay in implementing the project, there has been no cost overrun so far.

Amenities to Passengers at Belur Railway Station

253. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that minimum passenger amenities are not available at Belur railway station, Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps has been taken for providing waiting room, toilets, drinking water, overbridge and to clear the water-pass; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Belur, a suburban railway station is already provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic handled. Waiting hall, toilets, drinking water facilities and foot-over-bridge are already available at the station.

Late Running of Suburban Trains

254. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all the suburban trains of Calcutta are running late daily during the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to run suburban trains in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). It is the endeavour of the Railways to run trains punctually. However, at times due to certain unavoidable reasons such as Agitations/Bandhs, Miscreant Activities, Accidents, Dislocation due to equipment failures and bad weather etc. trains sometimes, run late. A more intensive monitoring has been initiated to improve the punctuality performance of trains.

Inclusion of Plassey Railway Station in the Important tourist Places of West Bengal

255. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Plassey is a historically important station of West Bengal and Railways have failed to include the name of Plassey in the important places/tourist places of West Bengal in the Time Table published by the Eastern Railway;